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VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB

VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA

REPEATER REPEATER REPEATER REPEATER REPEATER REPEATER REPEATER REPEATER REPEATER

December 2009

President's Message

Mike Vieira W6MAV

Merry Christmas and a warm holiday greeting to you and your family from the W6VVR Vaca Valley Radio Club! Once again we will enjoy each other's company at our annual December Christmas Party next Wednesday evening. This year the venue is the Kings Buffet in Vacaville. The address is: 601 Orange Drive, Vacaville, CA. We begin at 6pm as usual. Bring your family and appetite. Cost is $15.48 includes tip and tax.

We will also be having our Amateur Radio gift exchange which is a tradition. Bring an Amateur Radio related gift item of about $10 with you. We have some really good items every year.

2009 was a good year for the club. We had a ton of fun at Larry and Sue Hogue's QTH last June with our 2009 Field Day station. Look at page 69 in *QST* magazine this month to see our club listed in the 1A category. I hear we may add a PSK 31 station in 2010.

Merriment on Main was well attended by club members and friends. The service to our community that we provided along with other groups helped the organizers of M on M more than you can imagine.

I look forward to a great 2010 with the club with more interesting programs, events, and new club members as we go forward. 73!

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Around the Radio Shack

By Jerry Olive KD6WKY

I always enjoy the long Thanksgiving four day weekend every year. Not that I'm a shopper or anything like that, I find time to get on my radio during the day on that long weekend. This year was particularly interesting in that we had a terrific opening to Africa from the West Coast which has been very rare these days.

Thanksgiving Day started out with lots of activity on 15 meters into Central America by Americans on holiday down there. Then about 1630 UTC I noticed a DX spot for A25NW in Botswana on 12 meters. Not expecting to be able to hear anything I tuned it in and turned my beam to about 70° and what do you know, there he was talking away. Two things here that are rare, first of all 12 meters is rarely open anywhere right now, secondly, it was open from Vacaville to Botswana.

It didn't take me long to make contact with Mike Tessmer K9NW who was over in Botswana operating. I only used 100 watts power with a rotatable dipole up at 35'. Wow!

Throughout the weekend 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters were open to Africa and the Far East both CW and SSB, it was really fun.

Last weekend was the CQ World Wide Contest, CW portion. I didn't work the contest, I had things to go, but I did pay attention to who was on the air. I worked five stations anyway, just to pick up a new country or new band or mode. The most interesting of the group was R1ANC the Russian Scientific Research Station in Antarctica. I'll put a photo of their QSL card on page five. I can't wait to get it.

There was also a DXpedition over on Chesterfield Island near Australia that I was trying to work but could never seem to be around when they were heard on the West Coast. I worked TX3A two hours before they went QRT off the air on 15m CW. Man…that was close!

Saturday night I went over to Tom N6AJR's QTH and spent a couple of hours with him visiting and working the 16Ø meter contest. Tom has the antenna and the 1,500 watt ampli-

ifier for that band, he has been kind enough to let me get on the air each year for the past three years and work about 50 contacts while we visit. It's a nice casual evening.

Next weekend is the 1Ø meter contest. Now listen…if you have a Technician license and want to have a little fun call me! You can stop by my place and get on the air for awhile. It's easy, fun, and makes for good practice. The 1Ø meter band should be open enough to work plenty of stations. You can work while I drink tea or visa versa. My radio station is in the living room next to the Christmas tree so it's very festive too.

Lastly, I got my generator back from the repair shop this weekend. It works great now! I needed to replace all the rubber fuel lines in it and couldn't do it myself without tearing the damn thing all apart. El Frink's in Woodland did a fine job at a reasonable price. Now I have a generator again for Field Day and my Yolo County Expedition in the 2010 California QSO Party. More on that later.

Meeting Minutes for November

The meeting minutes for November were not available Sunday evening. Frankly, the minutes are in my brief bag which is at my office in Fairfield. Sorry guys. I'll have them available at the meeting/party Wednesday night.

Dues for 2010 will be $20 though. So plan on bringing your check, cash or money order for $20 to either the December for January meeting.

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB—2009
ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Mike Vieira, W6MAV
Vice President: Open and taking resumes!
Secretary: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, W6HEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Director: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Director: Antonio Del Rio, N6ZGB
Director: Glen Mitchell W6JLX

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Net Control Chairperson: Open
Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

Val Quinn, WN6R

Larry Hogue, W6OMF brought this to my attention. Some of you may know Val Quinn, WN6R. It seems Val has been very ill and has had a long recovery. Here is a website where the family is posting progress reports.

http://www.valquinn.com/

Pacificon 2010 is Back in San Ramon!

After a one year hiatus, **PACIFICON 2010**, the great west coast ham radio convention, returns to the San Francisco Bay Area and will again be sponsored by the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club. **Pacificon 2010** will take place Friday, October 15th through Sunday, October 17th, at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel at 2600 Bishop Drive in San Ramon, California. Events and schedules listed here are in the planning stages.

PACIFICON is an American Radio Relay League (ARRL) - Pacific Division convention. It is produced by the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club.

http://www.pacificon.org/

A Ham's Night Before Christmas

As published in *QST*, December 24, 2004

'Twas the night before Christmas,
And all through 2 meters,
Not a signal was keying up
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up
From the tower, quite high,
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,
Took their H-Ts to bed,
And dreamed of the day
They'd be Extras instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged
By a signal with power.
It smoked a small diode,
And, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,
And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
On the DX *PacketCluster*,

While I ran to the window
And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,
But the moon made it gleam.
A flying sleigh, with an
Eight-element beam,

And a little old driver
Who looked slightly mean.
So I thought for a moment,
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa,
The Santa of Hams.
On a mission, this Christmas,
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,
Then stopped in his track,
And he slid down the coax
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid
Behind stacks of *CQ*,
This Santa of hamming
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk
Of paper and parts,
And filled out all my late QSLs
For a start.

He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded
It into the earth, till
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,
Resoldered connections,
Cranked down modulation,
Installed lightning protection. He neutralized tubes
In my linear amp.
(Never worked right before;
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low pass filter
Cleaned up the TV.
He corrected the settings
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer
That would not compute,
And he backed up the hard drive
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box.
A new rig? I thought!

A new Kenwood? An Icom?
A Yaesu, for me?!
(If he thought I'd been bad,
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those hours
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up
And in record time, quickly
Worked 100 countries,
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,
It was my call he sent.
But the cards and the postage
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key: (go to page 5)

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988 General Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Vine Street Fire Station.

Wheelchair accessible

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at:
http://www.jcis.net/~hewbob/vvrc

Club repeater in Vacaville: W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3

The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 7pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.200(-) WV6F 440.025(+) pl 127.3 Hz
W6OMF Repeater 224.540 MHz, PL 118.8 Hz

2009
SOLANO COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO
HOLIDAY PARTY AND DINNER

ALL LOCAL RADIO AMATEURS ARE INVITED

Bring a friend

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9, 2009 6:00 PM

KING'S BUFFET

601 ORANGE DRIVE
VACAVILLE

ADULTS $15.48

INCLUDES. TAX & TIP

DOOR PRIZES

KING'S BUFFET IS LOCATED AT 601 ORANGE DRIVE, VACAVILLE
TAKE THE I-505 EXIT FROM EAST BOUND I-80 BUT STAY RIGHT AND DO NOT GET ON I-505.
TURN LEFT ON ORANGE DRIVE.
SPONSORED BY THE VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL BOB AT 707-448-5665 OR EMAIL W6VVR@ARRL.NET

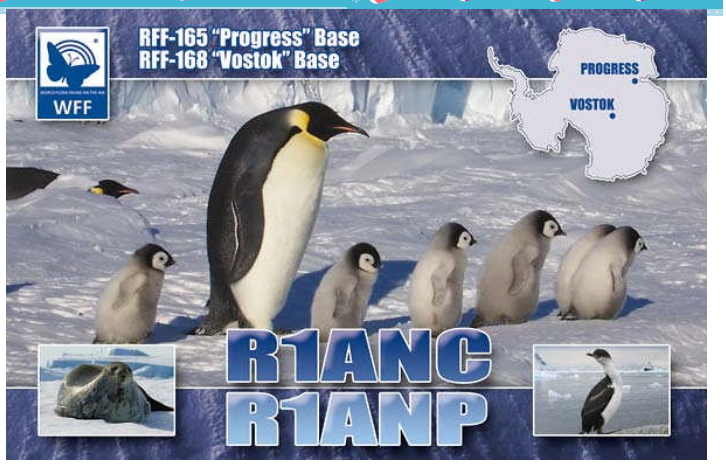
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.
73."

Then he grabbed his H-T,
Looked me straight in the eye,
Punched a code on the pad,
And was gone with no good-bye.

I ran back to the station,
And the pileup was big,
But a card from St. Nick
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final
came over the air.
It was copied all over.
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed
What a ham might expect,
"Merry Christmas to all,
And to all, good DX!"



PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely

Dues are delinquent January 1st

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
Street: _____
City: _____Zip: _____
Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)
License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)
E-Mail Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues ----------$20.00 _____
Each Family Member ---$ 2.00 _____
Student ----------$ 5.00 _____
Repeater/Autopatch donation--- _____
Call/Name badge ---------$10.00 _____
Optional ARRL membership
ARRL dues----------$37.00 _____
ARRL dues (Senior) -----$34.00 _____
Senior is 65 yr or older with one time proof on age.

Total---------- _____
Paid by CASH: ____ Check #_____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.
PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143

ON TARGET

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December Club Meeting

General Meeting 6pm
Kings Buffet, Vacaville, CA

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

OPEN HERE